FALL CULTURE SOUTHERN AREA - Ralph Philo

When Jimmie Monroe asked me to write this article on Hibiscus Culture in the South Area for August, September and October I realized that those who would be interested in such an article would be divided into two groups, those particularly interested in producing specimen blooms for the shows, most of which occur during this time and those whose particular interest is in growing fine plants in their garden, with a primary interest in quantity of bloom. I shall try to keep both groups in mind as I write this material.

Now that we are in our rainy season, it is quite safe to assume that watering will not be part of the problem, unless there is too much water where drainage is not of the best. Hibiscus just cannot stand wet feet for very long without serious damage to the root system, therefore drainage is very important.

It is probably quite unnecessary to emphasize the fact that grass or weeds close to the plants will also upset their normal growth and will rob the plants of a big share of the available plant food.

Unless the plants are large enough to provide shade for their own root systems, it is very important that some sort of mulch be applied to protect the root system from the very hot sun. I find the sugar cane litter very effective.

Pruning during this period should be avoided as it will deprive you of the bloom you would like to enjoy during this period.

As to fertilizer, I am quite thoroughly convinced that it is vitally important to use a fertilizer with at least 25 to 30% organic content, and also a goodly supply of the minor elements to meet some of the deficiencies that occur from time to time. Also I believe that frequent applications of fertilizer in small amounts is better than less frequent larger amounts.

To combat a chlorosis of the leaves it is very difficult to give any simple formula or plan that

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REPORT OF ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The 1961 Annual Membership Meeting of the AHS is now a thing of the past. All those who attended were well pleased with the hotel and meals. There were one or two exceptions. Mr. Vires had a private pool in his room. The roof leaked and the bathroom floor was a little damp, but he made out. It rained more than was wished for during the week end but all in all the meeting was a success.

The new officers elected were:

President: Mrs. John Wylie of Tampa
1st Vice: Mrs. Paul Goodman of Orlando
2nd Vice: Mr. Tommy Viers of Lake Helen
Secretary: Mrs. Jeanne Dewey of Vero Beach
Treasurer: Mr. Herb Gilliard of Orlando
Directors for 3 years:
Mr. Ralph Philo of Ft.Myers
Mrs. Steve Johnson of Orlando
Mr. Wilbur Arp of Deland
Director for 1 year - Replacing Mr. Viers:
Mrs. Arthur Beckham of Jacksonville
Director for 2 years - Replacing Mrs. Wylie:
Mrs. Owen Craig of Ft.Myers.

There were two Honorary memberships granted. One to Mr. Ross Gast of California and one to Mr. August M. Miller of Hawaii. Both of these men have done outstanding work with Hibiscus.

The proposed rules and regulations for judging standard hibiscus shows that were in the Summer issue were adopted with some changes. We will not carry

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